

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 /127 R

66661

DRAFTED BY: NEA/IRN:JCMIKLOS:MAGMICHAUD

APPROVED BY:NEA-JOSEPH J SISCO

NEA/IRN-AMB. HELMS(DRAFT)

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R 302320Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OVIP, PFOR, IR

SUBJ: SHAH'S VISIT

1. IN HIS WELCOMING REMARKS ON JULY 24 THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBED THE SHAH AS A "WORLD STATESMAN OF THE FIRST RANK," SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE SUBSTANCE AND STYLE OF THE EXCEEDINGLY BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL STATE VISIT WHICH FOLLOWED. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS AND EVENTS REINFORCED THE IMAGE OF TWO OLD FRIENDS, WISE AND EXPERIENCED IN WORLD AFFAIRS, WITH GREAT ADMIRATION FOR EACH OTHER, MEETING TO TALK OVER INTERNATIONAL MATTERS OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE.

2. HIGHLIGHTED THROUGHT THE VISIT WAS THE IMPORTANCE THE OIL-

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RICH MIDDLE EAST HOLDS FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE CRITICAL

ROLE IRAN PLAYS IN THE AREA, THE WISDOM OF THE SHAH'S LEADERSHIP AND THE EFFORTS OF BOTH LEADERS TO SEEK AND MAINTAIN PEACE. THE SHAH REPEATEDLY MADE THE POINT THAT IRAN WAS A STRONG, VITAL, INDEPENDENT NATION WHOSE POLICIES, ESPECIALLY IN MATTERS OF SECURITY, SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO NO MORE QUESTIONING THAN THOSE OF ANY OTHER MAJOR POWER. HE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE BELIEVED HE AND HIS COUNTRY HAD ARRIVED AND SHOULD BE ACCORDED THE RESPECT AND DEFERENCE DUE A NATION AND A LEADER OF THE FIRST RANK. AT THE PERSONAL LEVEL THE VISIT WAS MARKED BY GREAT CORDIALITY AND WARMTH WITH THE EMPRESS ADDING A SPECIAL TOUCH OF GRACIOUS ELEGANCE. THE CONCLUSION WAS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL: THE U.S. AND IRAN HAVE THE CLOSEST RELATIONS, THEY SEE EYE TO EYE ON ALL QUESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE, THEY ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO PERSIAN GULF MATTERS, AND OUR BOND IS MADE ESPECIALLY CLOSE BY THE ADMIRATION AND RESPECT THE TWO LEADERS HAVE FOR EACH OTHER.

3. DURING THE VISIT THE SHAH MET PRIVATELY WITH THE PRESIDENT TWICE, SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER, DR. KISSINGER (TWICE), AND OTHER PROMINENT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FIGURES. THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HELD PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH HIM. HE ALSO HELD PRESS AND TV INTERVIEWS. THE SHAH WITNESSED THE FIRST UNOFFICIAL DEMONSTRATION OF F-14 AND F-15. AIRCRAFT IN THE WASHINGTON AREA. HE WAS ENTERTAINED AT DINNER BY THE PRESIDENT AND AT LUNCH BY THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. THE SHAH AND THE EMPRESS GAVE A DINNER AT THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN HONOR OF THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON AND A SEPARATE EVENING AT THE KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND A HOST OF OTHER PROMINENT PERSONALITIES.

4. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT HIS MEETING WITH THE SHAH WAS HIS FIRST WITH A HEAD OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT SINCE THE BREZHNEV VISIT. HE SAID THAT "IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE THAT OF ALL THE AREAS IN THE WORLD WHICH POSE A POTENTIAL THREAT TO PEACE IN THE WORLD, THAT IRAN IS IN A VERY KEY, CENTRAL AREA." THE PRESIDENT COMMENDED THE SHAH FOR WHAT HE CALLED THE UNBELIEVABLY SPECTACULAR PROGRESS THAT IRAN HAS MADE UNDER THE SHAH'S LEADERSHIP SINCE HE FIRST VISITED IRAN 20

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YEARS AGO AND SAID "THE WHOLE WORLD APPLAUDS YOU FOR THE LEADERSHIP YOU HAVE PROVIDED TO YOUR PEOPLE IN BRINGING ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND JUSTICE TO THEM." THE PRESIDENT SAID " I HAVE BEEN HONORED AND I HAVE BEEN GREATLY ASSISTED BY RECEIVING THE BENEFIT OF YOUR COUNSEL ON WORLD MATTERS," AND THAT " YOU HAVE ALWAYS STOOD FOR AND STAND FOR NOW A POLICY OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE FORCES OF PEACE." IN REPLY, THE SHAH SAID "THE DRAMATIC SUCCESS YOU HAVE

HAD IN YOUR FOREIGN POLICIES IS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION BECAUSE, AS YOU HAVE SAID, THE TIME OF CONFRONTATION SHOULD BE REPLACED BY NEGOTIATION."

5. ON ANOTHER OCCASION THE PRESIDENT SAID "THERE IS PERHAPS NOW A BETTER CHANCE FOR BUILDING A STRUCTURE OF PEACE FOR ALL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR TWO AND THIS IS A CHANGE THAT ALL OF US WORLD LEADERS MUST NOT ALLOW TO SLIP BY." THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT "AS WE THINK OF THE PEACE OF THE WORLD, THAT YOUR MAJESTY PLAYS A VERY CENTRAL ROLE IN TERMS OF KEEPING THAT PEACE, AND OF BUILDING IT." THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE SHAH'S LEADERSHIP " WILL BE CRITICAL IN DETERMINING THAT WE FIND A WAY TO AVOID ANY KIND OF ERUPTION WHICH COULD LEAD TO BREAKING THE PEACE IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD, WHICH ALL OF US LOOK UPON TODAY AS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS." IN REPLY, THE SHAH SAID "WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AWARE OF THE KEEN INTEREST AND FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THAT. WE WON'T FORGET THAT."

6. REFLECTING THE CORDIALITY OF HIS VISIT, THE SHAH SAID TO THE PRESIDENT "I CANNOT SAY HOW MUCH THE EMPRESS AND MYSELF HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED BY THE HOSPITALITY THAT YOU HAVE SHOWN TO US AND, IN MY OPINION, THE VERY FRUITFUL TALKS THAT WE HAVE HAD, AND ALSO THE VERY CONCRETE RESULTS." HE ADDED THAT IT "IS HEARTENING TO HAVE SUCH FRIENDS IN OUR PRESENT WORLD."

7. THROUGHOUT THE VISIT THE SHAH AND EMPRESS RECEIVED FULL, GENERALLY FAVORABLE AND OBJECTIVE PRESS COVERAGE. MENTION WAS MADE OF ANTI-SHAH STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS BUT THEY WERE LOW-KEY AND MAINLY IN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS COVERAGE. AT ONE POINT AN ANTI-SHAH ADVERTISEMENT IN THE WASHINGTON POST PROVOKED A LOW KEY PROTEST TO COUNTRY DIRECTOR MIKLOS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER; OTHERWISE RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT CRITICISM WENT UNNOTICED. THE PRESS MADE THE MOST OF THE OIL AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT ASPECTS OF THE SHAH'S TALKS BUT GENERALLY FOLLOWED THE THEMES THE TWO LEADERS STRESSED IN THEIR PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT THE AREA, IRAN'S VITAL PEACE KEEPING ROLE, AND THE REMARKABLE PROGRESS IT HAS MADE UNDER THE SHAH'S ENLIGHTENED GUIDANCE.

8. DETAILS OF THE MEETING THE SHAH HAD WITH THE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ARE THE SUBJECT OF SEPTELS. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, ECONOMIC GROWTH, PETROLEUM, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE149834
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/IRN:JCMIKLOS:MAGMICAUD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973074/aaaaacrhl
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAH'S VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, IR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMED REZA)
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005